

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 7**

**INCIDENT NO. 2000-016**

**DATE: June 14, 2000      TIME: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding – Due to a series of thunderstorms since June 12 and high water tables, resulting from seven years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Engineers at the State Water Commission (SWC) anticipate that minor to moderate flooding will occur until the peak of the Turtle River reaches the Manvel area. The river level measured 11 feet this afternoon and was rising two-tenths of a foot per hour. Additional rainfall received last night sustained high river levels, although the peak is attenuating quite a bit as it flows downstream. Workers are building up the north-south road located six miles west of Manvel, which will push excess water to the north into the Forest River system at Lake Ardoch. Some excess will also flow east through nearby drains, entering the Turtle River downstream of Manvel.

SWC engineers continue to work with their counterparts at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to monitor impacts of high waters on the structural integrity of Turtle River dams. NRCS will continue to monitor on a routine basis and will step up monitoring efforts if additional precipitation occurs.

Along the Turtle River, erosion has occurred to the emergency spillways on two dams, but they are functioning as designed and have maintained their structural integrity, SWC engineers reported. On Dam #7, south of U.S. Highway 2, approximately 150 feet (25 percent) of the spillway has eroded. However, the dam has another 500 feet of spillway before erosion reaches the reservoir. On June 13, the dam overtopped for a short period of time. SWC engineers indicated that although the dam will need major repair work, its integrity is not in jeopardy. Little erosion has occurred at the Larimore Dam (Dam #9). Water flowing through its spillway has receded from three feet to one foot. Water is also flowing through the emergency spillway at Kolding Dam (Dam #6), but no problems have been reported.

Initial reports indicate that approximately 75 homes have been damaged or flooded in Grand Forks, Nelson, Walsh and Pembina Counties. Approximately 20 to 35 homes in Gilby were evacuated yesterday, and the city of Mekinock was reportedly under water.

The N.D. Highway Patrol reported that flood waters have damaged the roadbed on U.S. Highway 52, four miles south of Fessenden. Traffic has been restored to one lane on the highway, which is being flagged and staffed by N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) crews. The road will be monitored through the evening, and repairs will continue until the roadway is restored.

DOT staff reported that state roads in Grand Forks, Nelson and Walsh Counties were the hardest hit by recent rains. Initial reports indicate that a few structures may have been lost on the Grand Forks County system. Railroad bridges at Petersburg and Gilby sustained significant damage.

At Turtle River State Park, water temporary receded but surged, inundating three park bridges, N.D. Parks and Recreation Department officials reported. The homes of two park residents were inundated to the first floor. The Woodland Lodge flooded, and furniture was seen floating out of the lodge door. The park office building basement is flooded. All but two campers were evacuated; the two campers elected to stay because their vehicles were self-contained units.

In Nelson County, overland flooding has isolated two farms in Central Township. At one farmstead, owners are trying to pump standing water out of the basement. The owner of the second farmstead is using four-wheel drive to cross over to a prairie trail. Throughout the county, individuals have reported roof leaks and ongoing problems with the sump pumps not capable of keeping up with water seepage. Rainfall amounts during the past 36 hours vary from three to 20 inches. The Sheyenne and Goose Rivers are flowing at spring flood stage levels. A bridge in Drayton township was closed because water was flowing over the roadway. A county road north of McVille had water up to the shoulder; plans to cut a township road nearby to alleviate the pressure of the rising water are under review. County Road 9, the border road between Grand Forks and Nelson Counties, was covered with approximately one foot of water. Nelson County road crews and sheriff's deputies reported that other township and county roads are covered by varying amounts of water because nearby culverts are unable to handle the runoff. Other road damages include culvert washouts and gravel washing. Roads have been barricaded or flagged as needed. Hail damaged crops in an area from Stump Lake area to South of Michigan. Reports of water in basements have been received, as well as leaking roofs. Cattle producers report problems with flooded pastures and are attempting to relocate to high ground and hillsides.

Severe summer storms within the last 24 hours produced high winds and varied amounts of rainfall throughout Pembina County, from approximately 1.0 to 4.2 inches. The drains in the Drayton area are approximately three-quarters full. There is standing water in the fields. Approximately 30 percent of the golf course at Drayton is under water. Tornadic activity and high winds were reported between 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. last night. Spotters and law enforcement personnel sited funnels in the Hensel, Cavalier, St. Thomas and rural Edinburg

areas; no damage was reported. Rainfall amounts accumulated quickly during that time frame and were recorded as follows: Pembina, 0.16 inches; Bathgate 1.5 inches; Neche, 1.5 inches and Backoo, 3.5 inches. Neche reported a total of 4.25 inches during the past 48 hours. Drainage will be monitored particularly in the southeast section of the county.

In Eddy County, six inches of water has inundated the Burlington Northern-Sante Fe (BNSF) Railways Depot in New Rockford. County officials have received numerous reports of water in basements and of gravel road washouts. Roads in some townships were closed because water was flowing over them. Two businesses sustained water damages and were temporarily closed.

Washouts of roads, culverts and bridges occurred in Wells County because of the abnormally high rainfall. Flooded basements and collapsed basement walls have been reported in the cities of Fessenden, Harvey and other small towns, as well as rural areas.

County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Emergency Boards in Pembina, Nelson, Grand Forks and Walsh Counties have begun reviewing agricultural damages, although they note the full impact will be determined later. Initial reports for Walsh County indicate that 180 farm owners, whose combined acreage totals 125,400, reported a 10 to 60 percent loss for barley, dry beans, corn, soybeans, sugar beats, spring wheat and potatoes. Spring wheat was the hardest hit, with a 50 percent loss. In Pembina County, about 90 percent of the fields were covered by water with about 60 percent remaining inundated by June 13. Producers expected crop damage if water remains standing on dry bean, sugar beat, potato, sunflower and soybean fields. The water is impacting 48,000 acres and 50 farms. In Grand Forks County, agricultural officials say that it is too early to determine the storms' effects on crops. One-third of the county had received from six to up to 20.5 inches of rain and marble- to golfball-sized hail. Damage impacts on 400,000 acres in Nelson County could also not be determined until water has receded. Approximately 750 farms were impacted by storm activity that included heavy rain and hail.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: In Nelson County, individuals have assisted landowners in moving cattle from low-lying areas and providing pumps to remove water from basements

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Ed Schafer today issued an emergency declaration for the state of North Dakota due to heavy rains causing flooding in the northeast portion of the state. In his proclamation, the Governor noted that extremely heavy rainfall followed by flash flooding has seriously impacted the public safety and living conditions of residents of Grand Forks, Nelson, Walsh and Wells Counties. The emergency declaration alerts state and federal agencies that a serious impact exists to homes, infrastructure and croplands.

The Nelson County Commission has issued an emergency declaration because of severe flooding and damage to crops, cropland and roads.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: With the exception of continuing technical support, no additional assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Additional reports will follow as information on damages and impacts become available.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:

<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director